

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Strimbu for the considered Office Action of December 4, 2001. The present application has been carefully reviewed and entry of the present supplemental amendment is respectfully requested.

New ClaimsClaims 55-76

New Claims 55-76 includes independent Claims 55 and 65, which generally parallel Claims 1-9 and 42-50, respectively, but without reciting the specific structure of the seating channel.

Thus, Claims 55-73 recite, in part "A weatherseal for sealing a gap intermediate a first and a second confronting surface, the first and second confronting surfaces moveable between a spaced apart open position and an adjacent closed position, ... an elongate polymeric body selected to attach to the first confronting surface, the polymeric body including a sealing portion adapted to be spaced from the second confronting surface in the spaced apart open position of the confronting surfaces and the sealing portion adapted to contact the second confronting surface in the adjacent closed position of the confronting surfaces"


This seal construction in combination with the recited "light transmitting line" (Claims 55-64) or the recited "light generating line" (Claims 65-74) is neither disclosed nor suggested by the fixed seal and reflective tape of Gold '731. As set forth in the amendment of January 25, 2002, the presently recited structure would be contrary to the express construction of Gold '731.

As recited in the specification, the materials of the weatherseal include plastic, thermoplastic, thermosetting, thermoplastic elastomer, ethylene-propylene-diene-monomer, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, and polypropylene. (Page 5, lines 23-29) These materials are most accurately classified as polymeric, some of which can be elastomeric. Therefore, to provide correspondence with the disclosure, the claims have been amended to recite the polymeric construction.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits all the pending claims, Claims 1-9, 13-17, 20-23 and 42-76 are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If, however, Examiner Strimbu believes any further issues remain, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned so that such matters can be promptly resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADEIn the Claims

1. (Thrice Amended) A weatherseal for sealing a gap intermediate a first and a second confronting surfaces, the first and second confronting surfaces moveable between a spaced apart open position and an adjacent closed position, the weatherseal, comprising:

(a) an elongate polymeric [elastomeric] body selected to attach to the first confronting surface, the polymeric [elastomeric] body including a sealing portion adapted to be spaced from the second confronting surface in the spaced apart open position of the confronting surfaces and the sealing portion adapted to contact the second confronting surface in the adjacent closed position of the confronting surfaces, the polymeric [elastomeric] body including a seating channel extending along a longitudinal dimension of the polymeric [elastomeric] body; and

(b) a light generating line disposed in the seating channel for generating and emitting light.

2. (Twice Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the light generating line emits light[along a path defining a non zero angle with the longitudinal dimension].

3. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric [elastomeric] body includes a carrier portion.

4. The weatherseal of Claim 3, wherein the carrier portion includes a reinforcing member.

5. The weatherseal of Claim 4, wherein the reinforcing member is a metal or a thermoplastic.

6. The weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the light generating line is one of a fiber optic, a light emitting diode and an incandescent element.

7. The weatherseal of Claim 6, wherein the fiber optic is one of a glass or a plastic.

8. The weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the light generating line includes a side-emitting fiber optic cable.

9. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric [elastomeric] body includes a trim portion.

Claim 10 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 12 (Previously cancelled).

13. A weatherseal assembly comprising:

- (a) a weatherseal body having a longitudinal dimension; and
- (b) a fiber optic light line connected to the body, the fiber optic light line selected to emit light along a portion of the longitudinal dimension.

14. (Once Amended) The weatherseal assembly of Claim 13, wherein the body is polymeric [elastomeric] and includes a carrier portion and a sealing portion.

15. The weatherseal assembly of Claim 14, wherein the carrier portion includes a seating channel sized to receive the light line.

16. (Once Amended) The weatherseal assembly of Claim 13, wherein the fiber optic light line includes a pair of fiber optics.

17. (Once Amended) The weatherseal assembly of Claim 13, wherein the fiber optic light line includes a side emitting fiber optic.

Claim 18 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 19 (Previously cancelled).

20. An illuminating weatherseal assembly having a weatherseal body having a cross sectional dimension and a light generating line extending along a longitudinal dimension of the weatherseal body, the light generating line having a cross sectional area less than the cross sectional area of the weatherseal body and selected to generate and emit light.

21. (Twice Amended) The illuminating weatherseal of Claim 20 wherein the weatherseal body includes a polymeric [an elastomeric] body connected to the light generating line.

22. (Twice Amended) The illuminating weatherseal of Claim 21, wherein the polymeric [elastomeric] body includes a seating channel sized to receive the light generating line.

23. The illuminating weatherseal of Claim 20, wherein the light generating line is one of a fiber optic, a light emitting diode and an incandescent element.

Claim 24 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 25 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 26 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 27 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 28 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 29 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 30 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 31 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 32 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 33 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 34 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 35 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 36 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 38 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 39 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 40 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 41 (Previously cancelled).

42. (Once Amended) A weatherseal for sealing a gap intermediate a first and a second confronting surfaces, the first and second confronting surfaces moveable

between a spaced apart open position and an adjacent closed position, the weatherseal, comprising:

(a) an elongate polymeric [elastomeric] body selected to attach to the first confronting surface, the polymeric [elastomeric] body including a sealing portion adapted to be spaced from the second confronting surface in the spaced apart open position of the confronting surfaces and the sealing portion adapted to contact the second confronting surface in the adjacent closed position of the confronting surfaces, the polymeric [elastomeric] body including a seating channel extending along a longitudinal dimension of the polymeric [elastomeric] body; and

(b) a light transmitting line disposed in the seating channel, the light transmitting line transmitting light along a length of the light transmitting line.

43. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 42, wherein the light transmitting line emits light [along a path defining a non zero angle with the longitudinal dimension].

44. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 42, wherein the polymeric [elastomeric] body includes a carrier portion.

45. The weatherseal of Claim 44, wherein the carrier portion includes a reinforcing member.

46. The weatherseal of Claim 45, wherein the reinforcing member is a metal or a thermoplastic.

47. The weatherseal of Claim 42, further comprising at least one of a fiber optic, a light emitting diode and an incandescent element.

48. The weatherseal of Claim 47, wherein the fiber optic is one of a glass or a plastic.

49. The weatherseal of Claim 42, wherein the light transmitting line is a side-emitting fiber optic cable.

50. (Once Amended) The weatherseal of Claim 42, wherein the polymeric [elastomeric] body includes a trim portion.

51. A weatherseal assembly having a weatherseal body having a cross sectional dimension and a light transmitting line extending along a longitudinal dimension of the weatherseal body, the light transmitting line having a cross sectional

area less than the cross sectional area of the weatherseal body and selected to transmit light.

52. (Once Amended) The illuminating weatherseal of Claim 51 wherein the weatherseal body includes a polymeric [an elastomeric] body connected to the light transmitting line.

53. (Once Amended) The illuminating weatherseal of Claim 52, wherein the polymeric [elastomeric] body includes a seating channel sized to receive the light transmitting line.

54. The illuminating weatherseal of Claim 51, further comprising one of a fiber optic, a light emitting diode and an incandescent element.

Please add the following new claims:

55. (New) A weatherseal for sealing a gap intermediate a first and a second confronting surface, the first and second confronting surfaces moveable between a spaced apart open position and an adjacent closed position, the weatherseal, comprising:

(a) an elongate polymeric body selected to attach to the first confronting surface, the polymeric body including a sealing portion adapted to be spaced from the second confronting surface in the spaced apart open position of the confronting surfaces and the sealing portion adapted to contact the second confronting surface in the adjacent closed position of the confronting surfaces; and

(b) a light transmitting line connected to the polymeric body, the light transmitting line transmitting light along a length of the light transmitting line.

56. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 55, wherein the light transmitting line emits light.

57. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 55, wherein the polymeric body includes a carrier portion.

58. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 57, wherein the carrier portion includes a reinforcing member.

59. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 58, wherein the reinforcing member is a metal or a thermoplastic.

60. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 55, further comprising at least one of a fiber optic, a light emitting diode and an incandescent element.

61. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 60, wherein the fiber optic is one of a glass or a plastic.

62. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 55, wherein the light transmitting line is a side-emitting fiber optic cable.

63. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 55, wherein the polymeric body includes a trim portion.

64. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 55, wherein the light transmitting line extends along less than an entire length of the polymeric body.

65. (New) A weatherseal for sealing a gap intermediate a first and a second confronting surfaces, the first and second confronting surfaces moveable between a spaced apart open position and an adjacent closed position, the weatherseal, comprising:

(a) an elongate polymeric body selected to attach to the first confronting surface, the polymeric body including a sealing portion adapted to be spaced from the second confronting surface in the spaced apart open position of the confronting surfaces and the sealing portion adapted to contact the second confronting surface in the adjacent closed position of the confronting surfaces; and

(b) a light generating line connected to a length of the polymeric body for generating and emitting light.

66. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 65, wherein the light generating line emits light.

67. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 65, wherein the polymeric body includes a carrier portion.

68. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 67, wherein the carrier portion includes a reinforcing member.

69. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 68, wherein the reinforcing member is a metal or a thermoplastic.

70. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 65, wherein the light generating line is one of a fiber optic, a light emitting diode and an incandescent element.

71. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 70, wherein the fiber optic is one of a glass or a plastic.

72. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 70, wherein the light generating line includes a side-emitting fiber optic cable.

73. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 65, wherein the polymeric body includes a trim portion.

74. (New) The weatherseal of Claim 65, wherein the light generating line emits light.

75. (New) The weatherseal of Claims 1, 42, 55 or 65, wherein the polymeric body includes at least one of a plastic, thermoplastic, thermosetting, thermoplastic elastomer, ethylene-propylene-diene-monomer, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, and polypropylene.

76. (New) The weatherseal of Claims 1 or 3, wherein the light generating line extends along less than an entire length of the polymeric body.

77. (New) The weatherseal of Claims 42 or 65, wherein the light transmitting line extends along less than an entire length of the polymeric body.